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A word from the Chair

As an administrator, I have a special affection for annual reports. They allow us to step back from our day-to-day operations and give us the opportunity to highlight good works as a team.

2022 has been a pivotal year for Wikimedia Canada. Following the drafting of the strategic plan, we focused on hiring the first executive director in the chapter’s history and we warmly welcome Louis Germain on board.

We held two group sessions to catalyze renewed energy through our strategy and the pleasure of finally having a permanent team that could take the craziest projects of our volunteer community further. Your commitment and great ideas are the driving force behind our actions.

I would like to thank those who completed their terms as directors in 2022 and whose collegiality and loyalty we acknowledge: Lëa-Kim Châteauneuf, Guillaume Lafrance and Jean-Michel Lapointe. We are happy to know that you are still close to us.

Finally, I invite you to contact Louis, either individually or as an institution, to make your needs better known and to tell him how we can work together under the banner of your association, Wikimedia Canada.

I wish you the best,

Ha-Loan Phan, Chair
A word from the Executive Director

In October 2022, I was fortunate enough to join Wikimedia Canada as the chapter's first Executive Director. It is with great pride that I join the team and I look forward to being part of an enthusiastic and motivated association.

Since taking office, I have begun to implement the vision and strategic planning of the organization. The strength of the network and the involvement of the volunteers are tremendous assets that I will be able to count on in carrying out my mandate. It is with great respect for the projects that have been initiated that I take over the direction of the organization. I will continue to work and support the community, while bringing a fresh perspective to better respond to its concerns.

I would also like to highlight the welcome I received when I arrived. The members of the Wikimedia Canada's Board of Directors, the members of the Canadian community, and the international community, have given me a warm welcome. I thank them for that. If the challenges are great, so are the resources at my disposal. It is through the strength of the team that we will be able to achieve our objectives.

In closing, I believe it is important to recall a few principles of action that I have tried to follow throughout my professional life: listening, sharing, exchange and humility. I remain available to hear your ideas, to work on your suggestions, and to act on your recommendations.

I wish Wikimedia Canada every success and good luck!

Your Executive Director,

Louis Germain
Who are we?

Wikimedia Canada is a charitable organization dedicated to the growth, development and dissemination of free knowledge in Canada.

We are recognized as the official chapter for Canada by the Wikimedia Foundation¹, the organization that operates, manages and hosts the Wikimedia projects, including Wikipedia.

Our mission

Wikimedia Canada serves as a catalyst for collecting, developing and disseminating educational, cultural and historical knowledge and content in all of Canada's languages, including Indigenous languages, under a free license or in the public domain, using Wikimedia projects as the primary means of dissemination and supporting volunteers across the country.

Wikimedia Canada also helps to increase public and institutional understanding and awareness in Canada about open knowledge and Wikimedia projects.

¹ https://wikimediafoundation.org/
Our vision

“Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. That’s our commitment.”

With this common vision that we share with the global Wikimedia movement, Wikimedia Canada aims to increase the awareness and appeal of its programs, some of which are specific to its territory, such as Indigenous knowledge, languages and cultures. Wikimedia Canada also places particular emphasis on projects that involve diversity and high-impact topics.

What we do

Wikimedia Canada engages in a range of activities, outreach initiatives, community-building events, content-creation projects, partnerships with cultural and knowledge institutions, and collaborations with Indigenous communities.

The work of our volunteers helps millions of people around the world to access free, quality information and knowledge.

*https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Vision*
Wikimedia projects

Wikimedia projects are free and open source information and knowledge resources developed collaboratively online by volunteer contributors. They are the largest free knowledge projects in history.

There are 11 main Wikimedia projects: Wikipedia (encyclopedia), Wiktionary (dictionary), Wikinews (news site), Wikivoyage (travel guide), Wikiquote (collection of quotations), Wikiversity (educational resources), Wikisource (library), Wikibooks (textbooks), Wikimedia Commons (multimedia directory), Wikidata (knowledge base), and Wikispecies (inventory of life).

The content of all Wikimedia projects is free and open source under the Creative Commons license and anyone can contribute to it. This license means that everyone is free to use, reuse, modify and distribute the content without paying royalties.

Wikipedia is the best known of the Wikimedia projects. It aims to build a free online encyclopedia in all the languages of the world to which everyone can contribute. It is available in more than 300 languages and has more than 25 million articles in all languages.

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3 [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_projects](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_projects)

4 [https://www.wikipedia.org/](https://www.wikipedia.org/)
Governance

Strategic transformation in action

In 2021, the Board of Directors conducted a lengthy strategic exercise that was marked by two major milestones, the group sessions. This long reflection on our existence and our actions since the creation of Wikimedia Canada in 2011 has led to the drafting of a plan for the next five years. In addition to structuring our activities around six major programs and diversifying our funding sources, a major milestone in our history is the hiring of our first Executive Director. On October 11th, 2022, we welcomed Louis Germain to the team.

Louis Germain studied literature, marketing and management at Laval University and TÉLUQ in Quebec. After working in the cultural sphere for a decade, he served as Executive Director of the Association des archivistes du Québec for five years. His main interests are in organizational communication and collaborative work. As Executive Director of Wikimedia Canada, Louis hopes to encourage Canadian communities to contribute to Wikimedia projects by promoting exchange, dialogue and collaboration.

Louis Germain's mission is to put Wikimedia Canada's strategic vision into action, including building a permanent operational team, diversifying the organization's funding, increasing institutional and public understanding of open knowledge in Canada, and supporting the Board of Directors in its many projects.
The Board of Directors

At the 2022 Annual General Meeting, the members of Wikimedia Canada re-elected four members of the Board of Directors and elected a new director.

- Ha-Loan Phan, Chair
- Michael David Miller, Vice Chair
- Hélène Ouellet, Secretary
- Guillaume Lafrance, Treasurer
- Lēa-Kim Châteauneuf
- Catherine Bernier
- Thérèse Ottawa
- Benoit Rochon
- Sarah Severson

Wikimedia Canada is proud of the diversity of its Board of Directors. Of the nine directors, six are women, one is from the Atikamekw First Nation, two are English-speaking and six are French-speaking. This representation helps the association to pursue its objectives in terms of inclusion and diversity.

The Board wishes to achieve the best standards of governance.

In 2022, four members of the Board of Directors received governance training to improve their skills and abilities.
Our main projects

#1Lib1Ref

#1Lib1Ref (short for one librarian, one reference) is an international campaign to encourage librarians around the world, but also all those with a passion for free knowledge, to add references to Wikipedia articles.\(^5\)

Indeed, Wikipedia being one of the first places where people find information, we wish to contribute to the verifiability and credibility of Wikipedia by participating each year in the international campaign #1Lib1Ref by holding a friendly contest on a national scale in Canada.\(^6\) Through this friendly contest, Wikimedia Canada aims to mobilize information professionals (librarians, archivists, documentalists, etc.) from GLAMU (galleries, libraries, archives, museums and universities) to organize local contribution campaigns and compete with their sister institutions across the country.

From January 15th to June 5th, 2022, Wikimedia Canada piloted a national long-form #1Lib1Ref competition. The idea was to allow librarians to participate in the campaign outside of the busy start of the academic year.

For this first edition, four institutions stood out:

1. Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (Quebec)
2. Université de Montréal, HEC Montréal and Polytechnique Montréal (Quebec)
3. Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec (Quebec)
4. University of Western Ontario Library, London (Ontario)

For this first long campaign of #1Lib1Ref organized by Wikimedia Canada, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec found itself at the top of the reference additions thanks to the 2,360 added by Nathalie Thibault, curator of archives, responsible for the

\(^5\) https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/The_Wikipedia_Library/1Lib1Ref
\(^6\) https://ca.wikimedia.org/wiki/1Bib1Ref_Canada_1Lib1Ref
documentary management and digital dissemination of the collections at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

**Wikipetcia Atikamekw Nehiromowin**

The project to create a Wikipedia in the Atikamekw language, the *Wikipetcia Atikamkew Nehiromowin*, was launched in 2013. It was officially created on National Inidgenous Peoples' Day on 21 June 21 2017. Today, the Wikipedia in Atikamekw language has nearly 2,000 articles.

Among other activities, the WikiClub Metapeckeka got its hands on a private archives including a thousand photos taken during the filming of the series *The Six Atikamekw Seasons* on Radio-Canada, filmed in the late 1970s and focusing on the way of life of the Atikamekw Nehirowisiw on Nitaskinan. The entire collection has been uploaded to Wikimedia Commons. This year, several sessions were organized between the WikiClub, the Cikowic Elders' House of Manawan, the two filmmakers and volunteers from Wikimedia Canada, in order to properly describe the archives. It is more than 900 archival photos taken during traditional activities.

Other activities conducted by the WikiClub Metapeckeka include *Nanto masinatcikan*, where volunteers from the WikiClub organize evenings where people are invited to bring in their personal or family archival photos, which are then digitized on site and can be uploaded to Wikimedia Commons to illustrate articles from the Wikipetcia Atikamekw Nehiromowin. The WikiClub also organizes photographic

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7 [https://atj.wikipedia.org/](https://atj.wikipedia.org/)
contests called "Nitaskinan in pictures", where people are invited to upload photos on Wikimedia Commons illustrating the territory and the traditions of the Atikamekw Nehirowisiw.

In April 2022, Wikimedia Canada held a group session with members of the Atikamekw First Nation. 14 participants were present. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the projects to be realized with the community: addition of the Atikamekw toponymy in the Wikimedia projects, creation of a documentary about the creation of the Wikipetcia Atikamekw Nehiromowin, preparation of the contribution month of the Wikipetcia Atikamekw Nehiromowin, and organization of the festivities surrounding the five years of the creation of the Wikipetcia.

The members of the WikiClub Metapeckeka also participated in several activities during the year: recording of a podcast, participation in the International Festival Présence autochtone, and Tshakapesh colloquium in Mashteuiatsh on language, culture and history in the First Nations School.

The WikiClub also uses the Lingua Libre9 project to record words in the Atikamekw language which are then added to the Wiktionary.

Since then, the WikiClub Metapeckeka, that is to say the WikiClub of the Atikamekw Community of Manawan, continues to be one of the most active WikiClubs in Canada, and the Wikipedia in Atikamekw language continues to grow.

**WikiClubs**

WikiClubs are groups that support the mission of Wikimedia Canada at the local level or about a particular thematic.10 Some WikiClubs are

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9 [https://lingualibre.org/wiki/LinguaLibre:Main_Page](https://lingualibre.org/wiki/LinguaLibre:Main_Page)

10 [https://ca.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiClubs](https://ca.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiClubs)
supported by cultural institutions while others are informal volunteer groups.

As of 2022, Wikimedia Canada recognizes 11 active WikiClubs in Canada:

- Acadia
- Croissant boréal (Abibiti-Témiscamingue, francophone North-East Ontario & Baie-James)
- Edmonton
- Hamilton
- Metapeckeka (Manawan)
- Montreal
- Ottawa-Gatineau
- Quebec Living Heritage
- Toronto
- Quebec city
- 3L (Lanaudière, Laurentides & Laval)

**WikiClub Croissant boréal**

In collaboration with the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue, the Wikiclub Croissant boréal\(^{11}\) participated in a pedagogical project that aimed to accompany a group of students from the Arts, Letters and Communications program to create a first article on Wikipedia as part of a course. The articles are about a cultural organization or an artist from the region.

**Quebec Living Heritage WikiClub**

The Quebec Living Heritage WikiClub welcomed a Wikipedian-in-Residence\(^{12}\), Charles Labrèche, in the summer of 2022, thanks to the First Ovation program of Quebec City. During his

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\(^{11}\) [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Projet:Croissant_bor%C3%A9al](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Projet:Croissant_bor%C3%A9al)

\(^{12}\) [https://www.patrimoinevivant.qc.ca/actualites/wikipedien-2022](https://www.patrimoinevivant.qc.ca/actualites/wikipedien-2022)
tenure, the Wikipedian-in-Residence participated in the WikiClub by increasing the number of contributions to Wikipedia about Quebec's cultural traditions.

**Quebec city Wikiclub**

Since 2021, the Quebec City Wikiclub has launched a project called *Discovering our Ancestral Heritage*¹³ to document the architectural heritage of Quebec City, particularly the religious buildings.

Nearly 1,500 photographs¹⁴ have been uploaded to Wikimedia Commons thanks to the support of Wikimedia Canada and the Quebec City WikiClub, including about 800 in 2022.¹⁵ Many of these have been recognized as quality or remarkable pictures.

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¹³ [https://ca.wikimedia.org/wiki/La_d%C3%A9couverte_de_notre_h%C3%A9ritage_ancestral](https://ca.wikimedia.org/wiki/La_d%C3%A9couverte_de_notre_h%C3%A9ritage_ancestral)

¹⁴ [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Media_created_with_Nikon_Z7ii_provided_by_the_Quebec_WikiClub_by_year](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Media_created_with_Nikon_Z7ii_provided_by_the_Quebec_WikiClub_by_year)

¹⁵ [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Media_created_with_Nikon_Z7ii_provided_by_the_Quebec_WikiClub_in_2022](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Media_created_with_Nikon_Z7ii_provided_by_the_Quebec_WikiClub_in_2022)
WikiClub 3L

The WikiClub 3L\(^{16}\) (Laurentides, Lanaudière and Laval) supports the cultural community of this region of Quebec in the creation of articles in Wikipedia and items in Wikidata, and uploading images to Wikimedia Commons. The WikiClub organizes monthly meetings to advise participants on good contribution practices.

Honorary Wikipedian in Residence at the University of Victoria

Every year since 2015, the University of Victoria in British Columbia has hosted a Wikipedian in residence. In 2022, it was Wikipedian Nastasia Herold\(^{17}\) who was welcomed. The goal of the program is to encourage participation in Wikimedia projects, to develop knowledge about the free encyclopedia, and to make it more accessible to the general public.

In June 2022, Thérèse Ottawa, a member of the Board of Directors of Wikimedia Canada, participated in a virtual meeting with the university's Wikipedian-in-Residence. The topic of the conference was about the importance of taking into consideration the point of view of the First Nations at the center of digital projects. More than 100 people attended the presentation.

Book Project: A Decade of WMCA Projects

Jean-Michel Lapointe (Université du Québec à Montréal) and Marie D. Martel (Université de Montréal) are currently co-editing a collective work that will be submitted for review to the Presses de l'Université

\(^{16}\) https://www.culturelaurentides.com/evenements/wikiclub-3l/

\(^{17}\) https://etcl.uvic.ca/2021/10/08/2021-22-honorary-resident-wikipedian-nastasia-herold/
de Montréal in the Parcours numériques collection. The book entitled "Free knowledge and Wikimedia projects in Canada" aims to provide an overview of the dynamism of Wikimedia projects in Canada, thanks to the contributions of a dozen people who are involved in the movement or who conduct research activities about Wikipedia, Wikidata and Wikimedia Commons.

The book, in print and digital, is scheduled for release in the fall of 2023, and will be accompanied by a digital platform that will include two additional exclusive texts as well as a sound mapping of the Wikimedia movement contributed by Wikipedians from across the country. We are currently working on a partnership with an English-language university press to have the book published simultaneously in English.

Francophonie

WikiFranca is a collaboration between the French-speaking groups of the Wikimedia movement with the objective of encouraging activities in the various French-language Wikimedia projects and building bridges between countries participating in French-language Wikimedia projects. WikiFranca has members from several African, European and Caribbean countries.

Michael David Miller represents Wikimedia Canada in this association. In October 2021, he was elected to the first Board of Directors of WikiFranca, which was officially created as a new international association.

From November 17th-20th, 2022, five representatives of Wikimedia Canada had the opportunity to participate in the Francophone WikiConvention in Paris: Ha-Loan Phan, Chair, Michael David Miller, 

18 https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiFranca
Vice Chair, Louis Germain, Executive Director, as well as Rency Inson Michel and Nathalie Thibault, scholarship recipients.

Rency Inson Michel\textsuperscript{19} was awarded a scholarship for his work with Wikimedia Haiti.\textsuperscript{20} He also gave a talk entitled “Digital Commons and Access to Knowledge in Haiti: Between Hopes, Utopia and the Will to Change”.\textsuperscript{21} His presentation aimed to document the innovative actions and productions of Wikimedia Haiti.

For her part, Nathalie Thibault, from the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, won a $5,000 scholarship for her participation in the #1Lib1Ref campaign in 2022. The scholarship allowed her to participate in the French WikiConvention in order to network and exchange with other contributors.

**Acknowledgements**

First of all, Wikimedia Canada would like to thank all the volunteers of the Wikimedia movement in Canada as well as all the contributors to Wikimedia projects and, in particular, the participants of the WikiClubs across the country. Without their dedication, nothing would be possible.

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\textsuperscript{19} https://www.wikimedia.ca/2022/12/13/rency-inson-michel-raconte-son-experience/

\textsuperscript{20} https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Wikimedia_User_Group_Ha%C3%AFti

\textsuperscript{21} https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiConvention_francophone/2022/Programme/Communs_du_num%C3%A9rique_et_acc%C3%A8s_aux_savoirs_en_Ha%C3%AFti_:_entre_espoirs,_utopie_et_volont%C3%A9_de_changement
We would also like to thank all of our partners and, in particular, the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) who, in addition to collaborating with us to organize many projects, provide free office space to Wikimedia Canada in Montreal.

We thank the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF) for funding our projects and activities, as well as all the generous donors who allow us to carry out our mission and support our volunteers in their projects and initiatives.
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https://www.wikimedia.ca/donate/

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